case of a Minister and Rs. 22,500/- in case of a Deputy Minister. The Minister concerned is charged the prescribed rent for the furniture supplied over and above the prescribed ceiling.

(d) Appropriate action is required to be taken by the administrative Ministry concerned in terms of the existing instructions.

Telecom Sector

3116. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether United State has once again stepped up pressure on India over trade issue by urging the Dispute Settlement Body of the World Trade Organisations to set up a panel to look into non-fulfilment of commitments on the patents front even while adopting the bilateral route to seek further liberalisation of the Telecom sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the US has urged India to give an assurance that the liberalisation carried out so far would not be reversed in the case of telecom; and

(d) if so, what are the other commitments on regulatory issues apart from improving its NGBT offer in terms of opening up for foreign equity participation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). In pursuance of the provisions of Article 4 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and Article 64 of the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, on 2 July 1996, the Government of the United States of America had sought consultations with India regarding the alleged absence in India of either patent protection for pharmaceutical and agricultural chemical products or formal systems that permit the filing of patent applications for such products and that permit the grant of exclusive marketing rights in such products. The consultations were held on 27 July 1996.

The DSU provides that the complaining party may request the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) of the WTO to establish a panel to examine the allegation if the consultations fail to settle the dispute within sixty days after the date of receipt of the request for consultations. In accordance with these provisions, on 7 November 1996 the USA requested the establishment of a panel to examine this dispute. The DSB, at its meeting held on 20 November 1996 considered this request and decided to establish a panel.

(c) The US has asked a number of countries including India to improve its NGBT offer in the negotiations which are stated to be completed by 15 February 1997 in the WTO in Geneva.

(d) India has not made any commitments on regulatory issues in NGBT.

[Translation]

Smuggling of Urea in India-Nepal Border

3117. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the large scale smuggling of urea taking place on Indo-Nepal Border;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the steps taken to check the same; and

(d) the action taken against the officers involved and responsible for the same?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). Seizure statistics and intelligence reports do not indicate large scale smuggling of Urea on the Indo-Nepal border. However field formations are alert to prevent smuggling including smuggling of Urea on Indo-Nepal Border. No officer has been found involved in the smuggling of urea.

Top Importer Countries

3118. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of top 10 importer countries of Indian goods recorded during 1995-96;

(b) the position of those countries in the list of exporters of goods to India during 1995-96; and

(c) the special efforts made by the Government for increasing export to those countries which have a favourable balance of trade with India during 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). The position is indicated in the statement enclosed.

(c) During the current year, emphasis is laid on promotion of traditional as well as non traditional and value added exports to all countries including those which have favourable trade balance with India. Steps taken by the Government include improving bilateral trade relations through consultations and promotion of bilateral commercial alliances, special emphasis on quality improvements of exports, simplification of policies & procedures as required, involvement of States in export promotion efforts and launching of India Brand Equity to improve brand image for exports. Export promotion is a continuous activity and efforts being made in consultation with trade, industry and other export promotional organisations.

STATEMENT

	Top Ten Importer Countries of Indian goods during 1995-96 No.	Position of these Countries in the list of exporters of goods to India in 1995-96. No.
USA	1	1
Japan	2	3
U.K.	3	5
Germany	4	2
Hong Kong	5	19
UAE	6	7
Belgium	7	6
Russia	8	13
Bangladesh	9	29
Italy	10	9

Revise of Electoral Rolls

3119. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Election Commission propose to revise the electoral rolls for the entire country except Punjab and Assam;

(b) if so, whether the Chief Election Commissioner has been convened a meeting with the Chief Electoral Officers of the States/Union Territories;

(c) if so, the details thereof and main points discussed in the meeting; and

(d) the reasons for not ordering the revision electoral rolls in Punjab, Assam and Kashmir and the time by which the process is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (d). The Election Commission has already ordered revision of electoral rolls with reference to 1.1.1997 as the qualifying date in respect of Punjab and Assam. The Commission has not yet decided on revision of electoral rolls or otherwise in respect of other States/Union Territories.

(b) and (c). The commission had convened a meeting on 3rd December, 1996 of the Chief Electoral officers of all states/Union Territories. The issue of revision of electoral rolls in the States/Union Territories other than Punjab and Assam was one of the issues scheduled for discussion in the meeting. The meeting had, however, been postponed and no fresh date has yet been fixed.

Policy for Export by SSI

3120. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the Small Scale Industry's share in export as compared to the organised sector at present;

(b) the extent of its contribution to the employment generation and creation of wealth in the country; and

(c) the long terms strategy formulated for the development and growth of the Small Scale Industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Sir, Trade data compiled by DGCI&S does not indicate exports by Small Scale Sector Separately. However, the Office of Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries has indicated that out of total exports of Rs.82674.11 crores in 1994-95, the share of SSI sector was Rs.29068.15 crores which is about 35.15%.

(b) As per information available with the Office of Development commissioner, Small Scale Industries, there were 27.24 lakh SSI units in 1995-96 employing 152.61 lakh persons. No information is available regarding creation of wealth in the country by these units.

(c) The office of the Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries is the nodal agency for formulation of long term strategy for the development and growth of small scale industries. The strategy includes continuation of existing measures such as priority sector lending to SSI, fiscal concessions, reservation of items for exclusive manufacture (currently numbering 836) and price and purchase preference to products manufactured by the Sector as well as new measures such as provision of adequate credit and improving quality of its delivery, providing infrastructural support through Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme, enhanced technology support for modernisation and quality upgradation, enhancement to entrepreneurship development institutes as well as involving voluntary agencies, strengthening special employment generation programmes by way of self & employment through PMRY schemes and enhancing information and data base of SSI sector.

[Translation]

Export of Tea to Pakistan

3121. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hardoi) : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to export tea to Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total quantity of tea likely to be exported during 1996-97?